Leicester, Mass. Aug. 5. 1856.

Dear friend Webb -

I have just indited a hasty note to Mr. Steinthal, wh. I shall trouble you to drop into the Post Office, & cannot now forbear a similar one to you. — I am starting off tomorrow for some weeks' Anti Slavery Service in Penna, which has been partially promised for a year & upwards. I may possibly extend my tour to the Ohio Annual meeting, Aug. 30th &c. If I do this, it will be some 5 or 6 weeks probably, before I again write across the Atlantic. I hope Pillsbury will be a regular & somewhat frequent correspondent with yourself & other of our trans-atl. friends. I have set before him the importance of it, and I think he is well-disposed to do it, for his own sake & the cause's too. His heart evidently yearns toward the excellent friends he found among you all, & it will be a pleasure & a high satisfaction to him to keep the chain of our intercourse, sympathy, & association bright & strong.

I forget whether I have ever acknowledged yr. 2 notes, ~~May~~ April 18th, & May 8, (the latter by Pillsbury); I think I have. The various items of business in them were duly attended to. In a message to me, in a late letter to Pillsbury, you speak of having rec'd. parcels sent by me; - I hope (& presume) Mrs. Child's book was among them. Do the Slate pencils suit? Which are right?

"Mr. Bailey, the Editor of the Newport (Ky) News, has been in Boston. He is tall, gaunt, bony, individual, with a face expressing firmness, good-nature, & plain common-sense — 3 excellent qualities for a man in his position. He has had but a common education; was bred & "raised", as he says, a mechanic. He went to our First of August meeting, at Abington, & spoke there briefly but well, plain, & straight to the point. You will see a brief sketch of his remarks in my report of the meeting, next Liberator. He is not a man of finished education, but he knows the people & understands the popular mind & feeling better than our Scholars do, — perhaps, better than they can. I believe all our friends were pleased with Bailey. He cannot be an out and out Abt. in Ky said, at present; but he hates slavery, & sees with perfect vision that it is destructive to all the interests & hopes of his State. He says — "we mean to put Slavery out of Ky, and if the Union is dissolved, we mean to go with the North."

What you said, in yours of May 6, on the subject of an Agent of the Am. A.S. Soc'y, to reside in Gr. Britain for a time, is one of great importance. We are quite sensible of that; & that appears to be the judgment of our friends abroad, so far as we have ascertained it. It is quite too important for me to go into it, in this hurried note. It has been a subject of

repeated conversation among our friends here. But it has never yet come before our Committee in a formal way. Before long, however, I trust that it will. At present, Ways & Means would ~~not~~ hardly justify us in the appointment, were we ready to make it, and indeed we should hardly wish to make it, without learning with some certainty ~~the~~ what would be the most fitting appt., & most welcome to our Eng. friends. For myself I know of no one, who, for all reasons & on all points, & for all sorts of A.S. work combines more good qualities than Pillsbury - whom you yourself suggest. I have never exchanged a word with him as to going back to England, and shall not at present. If you have more to say on the subject, we should take it as very kind and helpful in you, to pour out your whole thought to us.

We hear nothing of F. Douglass's going abroad. He came, in a very still manner, into Mass'tts last week, to attend the Celebration of First August at New Bedford, - and I presume did so, but no paper that I have seen, makes any mention of him.

Charles K. Whipple wishes his Advocate discontinued, at the close of the present Vol. wh. will be the Sept. No. - Poor fellow - he feels poor, having lately lost his ~~situ~~ office & salary - the Association wholly re-modeling its arrangements, & he evidently feels the necessity of retrenching everywhere. - But he shall have the "Advocate" out of the extra No's. you always send to me. - By the way, he is the author of the "Blind that Wait & See" in the Standard. He is now a regular contributor, & receives some compensation for his articles. Phillips prizes them highly. Track No. 19 of our Series (just out) is by him, & very admirable.

Have ~~Did~~ you/ got a "Brother Jonathan" Newspaper I sent you (of July 4. 1856)? I sent it for the excellent fac-simile of the Declaration of Independence in it, -

with all its interlineations, erasures, omissions —
all as in T. Jefferson's hand-writing. I regard
it as a valuable document. Notice particularly
the clause on the Slave Trade — which clause
was "struck out", as Jefferson said "in deference
to some of our Northern brethren", who had
been "considerable carriers of Slaves."

Henry C. Wright is now in Ohio.

Mail-time compels me to stop,

Ever truly Yours

Sam'l May Jr.

Garrison has had a pretty serious attack
of illness — but was much relieved yesterday.

I have not time even to read this over.
Excuse blunders.

Mss. B, 1.6 v. 6, p. 37